

# Looking: Ten Times Two

*A routine for making careful observations about images, visual art, or objects.*



1. Look at the image quietly for at least 30 seconds. Let your eyes wander.
2. List 10 words or phrases about any aspect of the picture.
3. Repeat steps 1 & 2: Look at the image again and try to add 10 more words or phrases to your list.

**Purpose: What kind of thinking does this routine encourage?**

The routine helps students slow down and make careful, detailed observations by encouraging them to push beyond first impressions and obvious features.

**Application: When and where can I use it?**

The routine can be used with any kind of visual art. You can also use non-art images or objects. The routine can be used on its own, or to deepen the observation step of another routine. It is especially useful before a writing activity because it helps students develop descriptive language.

**Launch: What are some tips for starting and using this routine?**

You can invite students to do a first look with little guidance and encourage them to simply make a broad inventory of what they see. You might invite some guided looking during one of the opportunities by borrowing some prompts from the Thinking Routine: Color | Shape | Line, and ask students to notice colors or shapes... You can have pairs of students share their lists after both looking sessions to notice what their partners saw. If a list of ten observations seems too long to start with, shorten the ask so students list or draw just 3-5 things they notice each time.

Share your experience with this thinking routine on social media using the hashtags [#PZThinkingRoutines](#) and [#LookingTenTimesTwo](#).